

# EYEWITNESS DESCRIBES ZEPPELIN DESTRUCTION

## REAL ESTATE AND COURTS

Falls Blazing to Earth When Hit by Explosive Shell While on Way to Paris.

**DRAMATIC DEATH OF RAIDERS**

French Gunners on Moving Automobiles Check Daring Attempt of Germans to Reach Capital and Bombard It from Air.

PARIS,

February 23.—

An eyewitness

of the destruction of Zeppelin L-77

by French gunners on Monday near Revinay, a town which lies nine miles northwest of Bar-le-Duc, thus describes the exploit:

Two Zeppelins were sighted at 6:25 o'clock at night by an artillery officer in a listening post in the first-line trenches of the Argonne. The night was clear and the wind moderate. The officer could not see the airships, but he heard the noise of their engines and telephoned to the battery base whence the news was forwarded to the army corps headquarters. All the batteries of the district were at once on the alert, and within five minutes searchlights were sweeping the heavens in all directions.

The Zeppelins were first sighted by an officer commanding a battery of seventy-five millimeter guns. The first shot was then about two miles off, flying at an altitude of about 5,000 feet, and rising rapidly. The second Zeppelin was some three miles behind the first. The officer was unable to get the elevation necessary to hit the airship, but managed to give the exact position to the searchlight operator. From that moment until it was destroyed the first Zeppelin was never lost to view, and the searchlights never left it. As it was moving against the wind, its progress was relatively slow.

**SPECIAL ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS  
USED AGAINST ZEPPELINS**

As soon as the warning reached Revinay, five automobiles with searchlights and with special antiaircraft guns manned by naval gunners started in pursuit. These guns fired over a shell which is expressly designed to explode in contact with the aluminum-painted covering of the Zeppelins, and to burst into flames once it is ignited. As the car rushed along the road, the officer on the back of the car gave the range and directs the fire of the gun by the crew, which work the gun on the flat of their backs.

The guns on the moving automobiles opened fire as soon as they came within range. A shell burst just behind the Zeppelin, throwing it into strong relief, and immediately the gunners seized their opportunity. Another shell passed over the target, but the next of the inflammable type hit the mark squarely, about seventy-five feet from the stern. There was a sound of triumph from the crew, as the shell appeared to go through the body of the Zeppelin and to strike in the right side of the frame work, which is not more than one-tenth of the thickness of the hull. November 1, 1915, tax, \$16.

Charles K. Willis et ux to E. E. Davis, 26 feet 2½ inches by 120 feet south line Cary Street, 111 feet 3½ inches east of Mulberry Street, December 15, 1915, tax, \$16.

Eliza L. Harlow et ux to Edna Eason, 11x13 feet south line Clay Street, 366 feet east of Franklin Street, February 21, 1916, \$600.

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